

HISTORIC CEMETERY ADVISORY COMMISSION – NEWPORT, RI

Minutes: July 13, 2016

Newport Public Library, Rotary Room

commissioners present-Lew Keen, Ingrid Peters, Jean Quinn, Theresa Stokes, Mary Jo Valdes

participants- Beth Cullen, Martha Ginty, Bert Lipincott, Alyssa Lozupone, Robert Russell, Kaity Ryan

1. meeting was called to order at 4:15pm
2. It was determined that a role call was not needed
3. Minutes from June 8, 2016 meeting were approved as presented
4. The agenda format was approved without role call.
5. Updates/announcements - Friends of the Island Cemetery is discussing events for fall 2016 and spring 2017. Ideas for topics, venues, and partners should be sent to Beth. The Colonial Jewish Burying Ground will be open for tour on Sunday, August 21st.
6. Old/Unfinished Business
 - a- terms of commissioners are staggered; Keen, Stokes- 2016, Peters, Bjork -2017, Valdes, Quinn- 2018

b-The mission statement of the HCAC adopted is:

To assist the City in the efforts to preserve, protect and promote Newport's historic burying grounds.

7. New Business
 - The focus of the discussion was on the master plan for the Common Burying Ground. It was shared that Scott's priority is repair of the most vulnerable stones. Robert described these stones as ones that could be easily removed from the site and ones that are unstable and could be easily pushed over (these are primarily 19th and 20th century stones and pose the most danger to people on site). There are also stones that while currently not in critical condition, may demand treatment now to prevent significant additional damage.

Robert has created a list of about 40 stones that likely meet this criterion for immediate action. He will compile the list, share it with Scott and the commission.

It was further agreed to survey the entire site for a more complete list of stone work needed. Once a more complete list is created with an estimate cost for the work, an RFP can be created and funding can be explored.

Bert shared that the Sons of the Revolution are interested in restoring some stones and Theresa shared that the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society is interested in stone restoration as well.

A discussion regarding signage at the site included God's Little Acre, general signage, and informational stations. It was decided to make this discussion the focus of the August meeting. Theresa will send Lew information regarding the previous sign from God's Little Acre. That meeting will also include updates from Robert regarding the "needy" stones and if time permits a review of the master plan for projects that might be easily undertaken.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.

The next meeting will be August 10th at 4pm at the Newport Library

Submitted by L. Keen